

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A sewable snap fastener constructed of resilient material for receiving stitches from a sewing process where a needle in the sewing process penetrates portions the sewable snap fastener, the sewable snap fastener provided for detachably fastening together two opposing pieces of material, the sewable snap fastener comprising:

a socket member adapted for sewed attachment to a first piece of material, said socket member comprising a socket portion defining a receiving cavity and a cavity lip leading into the receiving cavity, said socket member further comprising an integrally formed socket flange that extends outward from the socket portion to define a sewing region having a surface provided to receive stitches for stitching the socket member to the first piece of material, and a back surface disposed adjacent the first piece of material, wherein the stitch penetrations through the sewing region of the socket flange are produced from the sewing process;

an opposing stud member adapted for sewed attachment to a second piece of material, said stud member comprising a stud portion defining a projecting outer lip configured for engagement with the socket portion of the socket member so that the first and second pieces of material can be

1 detachably joined, said stud member further comprising an
2 integrally formed stud flange that extends outward from the
3 stud portion to define a sewing region having a surface
4 provided to receive stitches for stitching the stud member
5 to the second piece of material, and a back surface disposed
6 adjacent the second piece of material, wherein the stitch
7 penetrations through the sewing region of the stud flange
8 are produced from the sewing process; and

9 channeling means for reducing the build up of unwanted
10 debris within the sewable snap fastener.

11
12 2. A sewable snap fastener as recited in claim 1
13 wherein the channeling means comprises a passage that
14 extends from the projecting outer lip, through the stud
15 portion of the stud member, to the back surface of the stud
16 member to allow debris to be channeled between the back
17 surface of the stud member and the second piece of material.

18
19 3. A sewable snap fastener as recited in claim 1
20 wherein the channeling means comprises a receiving cavity
21 that extends from the cavity lip, through the socket portion
22 of the socket member to the back surface of the socket
23 member to allow debris to be channeled between the back
24 surface of the socket member and the first piece of
25 material.

1 4. A sewable snap fastener as recited in claim 1
2 wherein the stud portion of the stud member further
3 comprises a compression slot transversely formed through a
4 portion of the outer lip.

5
6 5. A sewable snap fastener as recited in claim 4
7 wherein the channeling means comprises a passage that
8 extends from the compression slot, through the stud portion
9 of the stud member, to the back surface of the stud member
10 to allow debris to be channeled between the back surface of
11 the stud member and the second piece of material.

12
13 6. A sewable snap fastener as recited in claim 5
14 wherein the channeling means comprises a receiving cavity
15 that extends from the cavity lip, through the socket portion
16 of the socket member to the back surface of the socket
17 member to allow debris to be channeled between the back
18 surface of the socket member and the first piece of
19 material.

20
21 7. A sewable snap fastener as recited in claim 1
22 wherein the cavity lip is formed by a counter bore that
23 extends through the socket portion from the back surface of
24 the socket flange.

1 8. A sewable snap fastener as recited in claim 1
2 wherein the socket flange extends outward from the socket
3 portion to define a sewing region having a surface provided
4 to receive stitches arranged in a vertical pattern so that
5 the stitches will not obstruct debris from dropping away
6 from the snap fastener between the back surface thereof and
7 the material.

8
9 9. A method of making a sewable snap fastener
10 constructed of resilient material for receiving stitches
11 from a sewing process where a needle in the sewing process
12 penetrates portions the sewable snap fastener, the sewable
13 snap fastener provided for detachably fastening together two
14 opposing pieces of material, the method comprising the
15 steps:

16 forming a socket member adapted for sewed attachment to
17 a first piece of material, said socket member comprising a
18 socket portion defining a receiving cavity and a cavity lip
19 leading into the receiving cavity, said socket member
20 further comprising an integrally formed socket flange that
21 extends outward from the socket portion to define a sewing
22 region having a surface provided to receive stitches for
23 stitching the socket member to the first piece of material,
24 and a back surface disposed adjacent the first piece of
25 material, wherein the stitch penetrations through the sewing
26

1 region of the socket flange are produced from the sewing
2 process;

3 forming an opposing stud member adapted for sewed
4 attachment to a second piece of material, said stud member
5 comprising a stud portion defining a projecting outer lip
6 configured for engagement with the socket portion of the
7 socket member so that the first and second pieces of
8 material can be detachably joined, said stud member further
9 comprising an integrally formed stud flange that extends
10 outward from the stud portion to define a sewing region
11 having a surface provided to receive stitches for stitching
12 the stud member to the second piece of material, and a back
13 surface disposed adjacent the second piece of material,
14 wherein the stitch penetrations through the sewing region of
15 the stud flange are produced from the sewing process; and

16 providing channeling means for reducing the build up of
17 unwanted debris within the sewable snap fastener.

18
19 10. A method of making a sewable snap fastener as
20 recited in claim 9 wherein the channeling means comprises a
21 passage formed to extend from the projecting outer lip,
22 through the stud portion of the stud member, to the back
23 surface of the stud member to allow debris to be channeled
24 between the back surface of the stud member and the second
25 piece of material.

1 11. A method of making a sewable snap fastener as
2 recited in claim 9 wherein the channeling means comprises a
3 receiving cavity formed to extend from the cavity lip,
4 through the socket portion of the socket member to the back
5 surface of the socket member to allow debris to be channeled
6 between the back surface of the socket member and the first
7 piece of material.

8
9 12. A method of making a sewable snap fastener as
10 recited in claim 9 further comprising the step of forming a
11 compression slot transversely through a portion of the outer
12 lip.

13
14 13. A method of making a sewable snap fastener as
15 recited in claim 12 wherein the channeling means comprises a
16 passage that extends from the compression slot, through the
17 stud portion of the stud member, to the back surface of the
18 stud member to allow debris to be channeled between the back
19 surface of the stud member and the second piece of material.

20
21 14. A method of making a sewable snap fastener as
22 recited in claim 13 wherein the channeling means comprises a
23 receiving cavity that extends from the cavity lip, through
24 the socket portion of the socket member to the back surface
25 of the socket member to allow debris to be channeled between
26

1 the back surface of the socket member and the first piece of
2 material.

3
4 15. A method of making a sewable snap fastener as
5 recited in claim 9 further comprising the step of forming a
6 counter bore that extends partially through the socket
7 portion from the back surface of the socket flange.

8
9 16. A method of making a sewable snap fastener as
10 recited in claim 9 further comprising the step of extending
11 the socket flange outward from the socket portion to define
12 a sewing region having a surface provided to receive
13 stitches arranged in a vertical pattern so that the stitches
14 will not obstruct debris from dropping away from the snap
15 fastener between the back surface thereof and the material.

16
17 17. A sewable snap fastener constructed of resilient
18 material for receiving stitches from a sewing process where
19 a needle in the sewing process penetrates portions the
20 sewable snap fastener, the sewable snap fastener provided
21 for detachably fastening together two opposing pieces of
22 material, the sewable snap fastener comprising:

23 a socket member adapted for sewed attachment to a first
24 piece of material, said socket member comprising a socket
25 portion defining a receiving cavity and a cavity lip leading
26 into the receiving cavity;

1 an opposing stud member adapted for sewed attachment to
2 a second piece of material, said stud member comprising a
3 stud portion defining a projecting outer lip configured for
4 engagement with the socket portion of the socket member so
5 that the first and second pieces of material can be
6 detachably joined;

7 wherein the socket member further comprises an
8 integrally formed socket flange that extends outward from
9 the socket portion to define a sewing region provided to
10 receive stitches for stitching the socket member to the
11 first piece of material, wherein the stitch penetrations
12 through the sewing region of the socket flange are produced
13 from the sewing process; and

14 wherein the stud member further comprises an integrally
15 formed stud flange that extends outward from the stud
16 portion to define a sewing region having a provided to
17 receive stitches for stitching the stud member to the second
18 piece of material wherein the stitch penetrations through
19 the sewing region of the stud flange are produced from the
20 sewing process.

21
22 18. A sewable snap fastener as recited in claim 17
23 wherein the stud member and the socket member are each
24 monolithically formed integrally of resilient material.
25
26

1 19. A sewable snap fastener as recited in claim 17
2 wherein the stud member further comprises a passage through
3 the stud portion so that the material stitched to the stud
4 member is in communication with the receiving cavity of the
5 socket member.

6
7 20. A sewable snap fastener as recited in claim 17
8 wherein the stud portion further comprises a compression
9 slot disposed transversely to the plane defined by the outer
10 lip.